September 11 tragedy and had a meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush on 12 September 2002.

(c) The two sides discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues.

(d) The situation with regard to Iraq came up in the meeting between the Prime Minister and the U.S. President.The discussions did not relate to India's role therein.

(e) In New York, Prime Minister had publicly stated that India has vital strategic interests in Gulf and a large Indian diaspora lives and works in the region; India has had a historical relationship with Iraq; at the same time, we fully understand the international community's desire to see the relevant UN resolutions on Weapons of Mass Destruction complied wi:h fully; and, that we believe that the sanctions against Iraq should be lifted in tandem with full and effective compliance by Iraq.

Debarring former Punjab Chief Minister from US visa

1700. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Government has declared the former Punjab Chief Minister, Rajindcr Kaur Bhattal to be permanently ineligible to receive a U.S. visa;

(b) if so, the facts and circumstances leading to the decision; and

(c) Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Government has seen the media reports in this regard. However, Government has received no official information from the US side on this matter.

(b) The U.S. law prohibits the disclosure of information in individual visa cases.

(c) Does not arise.

Terrorist training camps in Bangladesh

1701. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has handed over a list of 99 terrorist camps operating in Bangladesh where anti-Indian terrorists are trained;